

# GREENE COUNTY

## Honorable Lillie Jones-Osborne

Greene County Courthouse  
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Vista Volunteer: Leona Morrow

## PRIORITY RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Family Resource Center
2. Support System for At Risk Students
3. Parents and Guardians

# Issues

*Issues are the primary concerns or problems facing children in the county.*

## **Health - Children's (0 - 19)** physical and mental well-being in the county.

### **Teen Pregnancy Prevention**

Policy Council Action Steps:

- Sponsor a resource fair to allow residents access to health and pregnancy prevention information in our county
- Lobby state agencies to develop guidelines for addressing teen pregnancy prevention and student achievement
- Secure motivational speakers for school and different youth organizations within the county

### **Promoting Preventive Health and Dental Care**

Policy Council Action Steps:

- Establish a partnership with state public health and social services officials to facilitate access to high caliber affordable physical and dental health care for children, youth and their families
- Plan health workshops for all youth and their families
- Involve community leaders, merchants, religious leaders and all interested parties in the decision making process of securing quality health and dental care for the county

## **Safety - Children live free of abuse, neglect, crime, and drugs.**

### **Children reported Abused or Neglected**

Policy Council Action Steps:

- Greene County Department of Human Resources Agency will partner with Law Enforcement to schedule and conduct workshops within the Greene County School System during the upcoming year (2005) on child abuse/neglect. Persons to be included are school personnel; counselors, teachers, para-professionals, and other staff. Workshops will be conducted at all county in-service meetings. Presentations will be 20-30 minutes with a question and answer period.
- DHR Liaison will share appropriate forms to be completed with Principals and Counselors at each school by all mandatory reporters
- DHR will continue to be the leading agency to screen all concerns/complaints reported as CA/N initial assessments or preventive assessments
- Public awareness presentations will be conducted through DHR-CJA Grants (state level support) and literature will be distributed at all workshops as well as with other service agencies

## **Drug and Alcohol Abuse**

Policy Council Action Steps:

- Expand the Neighborhood Watch Program through the City of Eutaw and Greene County Sheriff's Departments.
- City of Eutaw, Eutaw Police Department and Greene County Sheriff Department will seek to enhance/develop sports complex to include activities for youth of all ages in cited areas of the county
- Work with Parks and Recreation to enhance and rebuild parks/picnic areas
- Law Enforcement Agencies will promote safety by seeking to reestablish "Drug Awareness" programs within the school system
- Develop opportunities for local law enforcement to partner with youth service agencies by implementing positive, community based programs (Resource Officers, Junior Deputy League)
- Expand gun safety by continuing to operate the "Gun Lock" safety program
- Increase public awareness of the "Child Finger Print" and the "Child Safety Seat" programs by participating in sponsored fairs, public programs and announcements and positing flyers in public areas

## Education - Children

learn the skills necessary to become productive citizens.

### Access to a Quality Education for all Children

Policy Council Action Steps:

- Utilize available resources and programs to reduce the number of students dropping out of school
- Secure funding to provide conflict resolution/anger management training for teachers, support staff, parents and students
- Support the school system in seeking funds for highly qualified alternative school teachers and support staff
- Determine the effectiveness of the after school tutoring, extended day, and summer enrichment programs as aligned with the school district's academic goals and objectives

### Support System for At-Risk Students

Policy Council Action Steps:

- Apply for funding for educational services to include after school tutoring extended day programs, and summer enrichment in conjunction with the local school board, faith based and community organizations (Boys and Girl's Club, 21<sup>st</sup> Century Grant).
- Work collaboratively with the truancy officer to implement truancy and attendance policies
- Support the school system in securing funds for an after school, Saturday school truancy and detention program

## Early Care and

### Education - Children

(0 – 5) are provided opportunities to fully develop emotionally, socially, physically, and cognitively and are ready to succeed.

### Parenting Classes

Policy Council Action Steps:

- Establish parenting classes through collaboration with other agencies such as the Department of Human Resources, West Alabama Mental Health and Greene County Health Department
- Create parent support program for building self-esteem in low income families and families with one parent

### Pre-K Programs

Policy Council Action Steps:

- Network with Board of Education in providing information concerning the significance of early education programs
- Establish other programs to meet the need of Pre-K children who are not able to learn at a normal pace
- Collaborate with agencies that can identify at-risk pre-school children

## Economic Security

- Children grow up in a financially stable home where the child's basic needs can be met.

### Workforce Development

Policy Council Action Steps:

- Partnership with Alabama Industrial Training and the Enterprise Community to attract more participants to the program
- Work with Greene County Workforce Development Committee to continue to identify strategies to effectively improve the skill levels of the workforce in Greene County
- Become familiar with regional workforce initiative programs and promote these programs to the community

### Transportation

Policy Council Action Steps:

- Help promote the services offered by West Alabama Public Transportation for medical appointments and Job interviews, testing, training and employment
- Help secure a board member for Kid-One Transportation board of directors that will actively work to help citizens get medical appointments
- Promote Enterprise Community transportation assistance that is related to job preparation, interviews, testing and training Sponsor career fairs and community job fairs

## Parent Involvement

**and Skills - Parents and guardians participation and effectiveness in fostering an environment for children to become mature, responsible and independent adults.**

### Community Collaboration

Policy Council Action Steps:

- Expand and develop partnerships with Greene County Housing Authority, Greene County Commission, Department of Public Health and others to build Family Resource Center with primary emphasis placed on

promoting Healthy Family Relationships

- Seek funding through public and private sectors to help with the Resource Center
- Partner with the faith-based organizations and social service agencies to develop programs for the Resource Center

### Parent and Guardians

Policy Council Action Steps:

- Identify community leaders who could be used as community advocates to work with parents and the school system
- Use parent liaisons with Greene County Board of Education as community outreach persons

- Develop and promote Parental Involvement Activities that empower parents and teach social and leadership skills so that parents will partner with school staff and feel more comfortable visiting the school setting

### Parents and Guardians

Policy Council Action Steps:

- Develop and expand male and female mentoring programs countywide
- Develop programs to strengthen the role of the father in the home
- Develop programs to strengthen and address single parents as head of households

## Policy Recommendation

1. State funding for local Children's Policy Council
2. State funding for Art Programs for all elementary and middle school in school districts
3. Compulsory school attendance to age 18
4. Change sentencing guidelines to reflect tougher penalties in child abuse cases
5. Increase in funding for the Department of Mental Health adolescent drug treatment program
6. Mandatory physical education and nutrient education for all students enrolled in the state school system
7. State required conflict resolutions, anger management and cultural diversity for all teachers, support staff, and students
8. Required parental involvement/parental skills workshop for all parents enrolling children in the state school system.

## Accomplishments

1. The CPC Parent Involvement and Skills Committee has generated a significant increase in parental involvement county-wide. More than 250 parents attended a first-time County-wide Tutorial Programs' Awards and Partnerships Celebration banquet this year.
2. Three agencies have entered into official partnerships with the CPC: local Department of Human Resources; the Greene County Board of Education; and Greene County Extension System.
3. A consultant has met with the CPC Parent Involvement and Skills Committee (Mrs. Mary Jolley, Moundville, AL). We are making plans for the establishment of a Family Resource Center. (Dedication date: July 2006).
4. The CPC Parent Involvement and Skills and CPC Education Committees worked collaboratively together to plan and implement a (first-time) county-wide Parent Orientation Day in all four schools in the School System. More than 500 parents were in attendance altogether in all schools.
5. A total of seventeen volunteers have contributed a total of 234 hours in the Implementation of Children's Policy Council activities, January-June 2005.
6. Collaborative and successful working relationships have been formed among Tutorial Programs in the county with a focus on providing quality and consistent services to enrollees (and their parents) to help students do better in school.